

Parents and Families of Larchmont,

I trust all are well and staying safe. I want to thank you for your support and partnership with Larchmont as we approach the half way point of the school year. This year has been challenging for our children, families, teachers, and staff and you have risen to the occasion. Your perseverance ensuring that all our children have a positive learning experience goes unmatched. I am so proud of our students and all the efforts they have put forth the past semester.

As we begin the 2nd semester of the 2020-2021 school year, we have an opportunity to better prepare our students for the remainder of the year. Beginning on Thursday, January 28th, we will be changing the master schedule for the school. As we move into the spring semester and a possible return to in person instruction we must continue to make preparations. Please know that there is no date for a return to a Face to Face (F2F) model at this time. The safe return to a F2F model will be determined by our school board and local metrics.

The schedule that will be in place will be the same schedule that the children will follow when we begin a F2F hybrid model. Those families who have elected to join the Virtual Scholars Academy (VSA) will remain virtual for the remainder of the year.

Beginning on Thursday, January 28th, all students will be required to virtually attend school each morning and afternoon. The teachers will use the 28th to orient and show the students how the new day will look. All students will attend school virtually on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday each week. Wednesday will continue to be asynchronous.

During the first part of the year many of our students did not return for their afternoon sessions. I cannot stress the importance for all of our students to return each afternoon, as there will now be subjects that are only taught in the afternoon. Once a decision is made to begin the F2F hybrid model, House "A" students will be in the building on Monday and Tuesday. House "B" students will be in the school on Thursday and Friday.

Students in Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd will remain with their homeroom teachers during the day. 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades will continue to be departmentalized. The content teachers in the upper grades will rotate through the grade level classes each day. The new schedule is similar to a normal instructional day at Larchmont.

I understand that change is not easy. This new schedule will increase screen time for our students and require them to report to class on two additional afternoons each week. There will also be changes to lunch times and recess. The new schedule will address concerns from families and eliminate the larger class sizes. By moving to our new schedule now it will be one less change required of our students, families, and teachers when we return to F2F.

Each grade level will be sending out the daily schedule for the students in the Friday newsletter. The newsletters will continue to be posted on the school's webpage. There will be a learning curve in moving to the new schedule. The teachers will continue to work with students and families to ensure a smooth transition as we enter the second half of the 2020-2021 school year.

As always thank you for your continued support, cooperation, flexibility, and grace as we continue in this unprecedented time, #leopardssticktogether. If you have any questions please feel free to email me at jspeters@nps.k12.va.us or you child's classroom teacher.

Have a great day,

Dr. Peterson